ST JAMES THE GREAT
CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Church Clerk: Mary Carpenter 01543 275296 email: maryofnorton@talktalk.net



December 11
Community Carol Service at the Community Centre 6pm

December 18
Carol Service in St James 6pm

December 24 Christmas Eve

CHRISTINGLE 4pm



HOLY COMMUNION 10pm

Please be aware of revised timing



December 25 Christmas Day Mass 9am



Remembrance service at Norton Canes Reach 2 Academy.

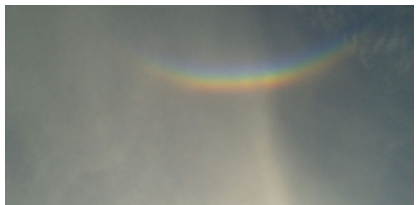
Pictured from left: RBL members Dave Smith, Brenda Rose, Tony Carpenter, Ray Dunn and Trevor Grey with Cllrs John Beddows, John Preece and headteacher Karen Amos.

December 2016 Issue 16

Norton Canes Village News

Bus Service – Hope for a Return

The Norton Green Lane area of the village could see its axed bus service reinstated.
MP Amanda Milling has held a meeting with Arriva area director (West) Rob Cheveaux.
She told him villagers from that part of Norton Canes are now completely cut off.
Residents expressed their outrage after the Number 3 service was withdrawn.
The MP told Mr Cheveaux residents now 'face great difficulty' getting to the village centre, to shops or doctors' appointments.
Ms Milling said: "I am pleased that following our meeting Arriva has agreed to look again at ways of providing some kind of service to the Norton Green Lane part of Norton Canes.
"Mr Cheveaux is looking at diverting one of the other services to incorporate the Norton Green Lane area. He will also engage with providers of 'demand response transport' which could potentially provide feed-in services.
"I am pleased Arriva has agreed to review the situation and hope they will find a successful solution."
Mr Cheveaux told Ms Milling the Number 3 route was previously subsidised by Staffordshire County Council. But the subsidy was withdrawn several months ago. Arriva had been operating the service at a loss ever since.



A very odd rainbow - *see page 6*



Chilling out on the park bench - *see page 5*

A big HELLO again – and welcome to our bumper 16th edition – our fattest one so far.
If it gets any fatter I'll have difficulty shoving it through your letter box.
Thank you so much to everyone who has contributed to this edition.
Please keep the articles coming. And if you haven't sent anything about your organisation yet, please do so.
Thank you to Councillor Sheila Harding who lays out the newsletter pages and patiently puts up with a bombardment of emails from me. She struggled on with this edition, even while suffering with a bad cold. Bless you. (Well that's what you say when someone sneezes isn't it)?
So I wish you all a flu-free, very happy Christmas and New Year. I hope you enjoy the festive season in your own quiet or riotous way.

Loves and warm winter snuggles.

Jan
Editor



Items for issue 17 - March 2017 to us by
January 31 2017
email: cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

Food for Thought

Could you spare a couple of hours on a Saturday morning to volunteer at the village Food Bank?
Trinity Methodist Church in Norton Canes is one of the area's food distribution centres.
Volunteers work on a rota system about once every two-three weeks from 10am-12 noon.
They man the centre and bag up the food for anyone arriving at the centre with a food voucher. Usually there are three volunteers present at any one time.
But more volunteers are needed to replace those who have recently had to leave.
If you would like more information about what exactly the role entails email Chris chris.straughan@talktalk.net or ring Ian or Chris on 01543 276695.

The parish council would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all volunteers in our village. We would like to wish all residents a happy, healthy Christmas and best wishes for 2017.

NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL 2015 ~ 2016

Cllr J. Preece (Chairman)	01543 270789
Cllr J. Beddows (Vice Chairman)	01543 279991
Cllr Mrs Zaphne Stretton MBE	01543 276959
Cllr Mrs A. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bernard	01543 274427
Cllr J. Bridgen	01543 271679
Cllr Mrs M. Hopley	01543 274396
Cllr Mrs S. Harding	01543 275013
Cllr M. Holder	01543 279475
Cllr M. Stretton	01543 276959
Cllr C. Cox	01543 459477
Cllr C. Preece	01543 899785
Cllr J. Hampshire	01543 279850

Clerk to the Parish Council Mrs L Florence 01543 276812
(between 10am-2pm)

Useful contacts for district and county and other matters

Residents may wish to keep a note of local councillors' contact numbers if they have any Cannock Chase District or Staffordshire County Council matters to discuss.

The district councillors are:

Cllr Mrs Zaphne Stretton on	01543 276959
Cllr Mike Hoare on	01543 279989
Cllr John Preece on	01543 270789

County councillor: Diane Todd on 01543 278778

Member of Parliament: amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk

Watercolour Club Exhibition

Norton Canes Watercolour Club held its second exhibition at Trinity Methodist Church in August.
Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece opened the event.
Later in the day members were joined by local MP Amanda Milling (pictured with club treasurer Maureen Garbett and club chairman Sheila Harding).
Sheila said: “Everyone enjoyed the hospitality of the church team - and the wonderful meals and snacks.”
Members meet at Norton Canes Community Centre on Mondays, 10am-1pm.
Greetings cards, produced by members, are always on sale.



Cllr John Preece with club members at the opening of 2016 art exhibition



From left: Maureen Garbett . Amanda Milling MP and Sheila Harding

Norton Canes RVS (Darby and Joan)

This fun club meets at Norton Canes Community Centre every Wednesday.
There is room for more male or female members (no upper or lower age limit).
Members enjoy trips, celebrations and birthday parties throughout the year.
They meet from 1.30pm-3.30pm. You are invited to join the fun.
For more details, ring Zaphne or Mike on 01543 276959.

Skate Park: Vandalism will not be Tolerated

Parish councilors are bitterly disappointed with the amount of vandalism occurring at the village skate park.
Litter bins have been damaged, rubbish has been strewn across the area and glass bottles broken – which is causing a health and safety issue for users.
Offenders are being warned that the police have been informed and they are examining CCTV footage.
A parish council spokesperson said: “If the culprits are identified then action **will** be taken against them.
“It is very disappointing. If this behavior continues, councilors will have no choice but to review usage of the skate park.
“We are having to use our resources to clear up the park on a regular basis - when we should be looking at other areas in the village and maintaining them.”
The skate park was built several years ago at the request of a group of young people.
They approached the parish council for support in developing the skate park.
The young people were involved in the development and were encouraged to take ownership of the site.
The parish council is now appealing to parents: can we encourage you to make young people aware of the issues we are facing with the skate park?

Speed Watch – Let’s Get it Up and Running

The parish council is appealing to villagers to help introduce a community Speed Watch programme. But the scheme relies on volunteers to come forward.
Parish councilors have been involved with an initiative via Staffordshire Safer Roads Partnership. The aim is to raise awareness of speeding along some roads in the village.
The initiative has already seen 30 mph stickers being placed on wheelie bins.
Parish councilors John Bernard and Clive Preece delivered the stickers to residents in parts of the village. Other roads will be targeted in the future.
A parish council spokesperson said councilors are ‘very keen’ to get the Community Speed Watch up and running in the village.
“Speeding is a major concern in many residential areas,” parish clerk Linda Florence said.
“We are aware that many residents report issues of speeding cars along their roads.
“To enable this project to move forward we need volunteers to help and be involved at certain times of the year.”
Training will be provided by the police - who will also assist in Speed Watch checks.
If you can spare any time and would like to have more details email the clerk at nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk or ring 01543 276812.



Cllrs Clive Preece ((left) and John Bernard get the message across.

Make Your Views Known

A Message from Norton Aluminium Liaison Committee Chairman
Norton Aluminium has been a feature of the local area for many years and is likely to be so for more to come, providing employment to a number of local residents.
Like many industrial concerns operating close to residential areas, it has not been without its environmental problems. Complaints ranging from noise, odours, dust, etc have been received by the parish council.
In 2013 a new company was established, which whilst operating under the same trading name, has adopted a more positive approach to these environmental issues.
Improvements in processes and practices have been implemented, which along with work on the structure of the buildings have resulted in a significant fall in the number of complaints.
Norton Aluminium Liaison Committee has been established for 12 months and offers the opportunity for local residents to hear about the work the company is doing to improve its environmental performance and reduce any impact on the local community; to raise any concerns or queries you may have about its activities; and to find out how your council is involved in regulating the site.
Only small numbers of residents have attended recent meetings. As chairman of this committee I would again encourage and welcome you to come along and take part in the next meeting which will be held at Norton Aluminium, Norton Green Lane, on March 9, 2017, 6pm-8pm. Your views are important. The meetings are now held twice annually.
If you wish to speak to someone about the work of the committee please ring 01543 462621 and ask for the Environmental Protection Team, or email environmentalhealth@cannockchasedc.gov.uk
Copies of the agendas and minutes from previous meetings are available at http://www.cannockchasedc.gov.uk/residents/environmental-health/environmental-protection/environmental-public-consultations
John Bernard
Norton Aluminium Liaison Committee chairman

What's on at the Community Centre:

Saturday November 26 Christmas Party Sing-a-long and afternoon tea with Val and John, 2pm. Tickets £6 from committee members.
Sunday November 27 Disney Character Christmas Party, 12 noon -3pm. Lunch and disco with our characters. Come dressed as any Disney character. £5 per child over 12 months (includes present from Santa. Ticket only event. Email:ncca@hotmail.co.uk
Sunday December 4 Christmas Fair and Lantern Parade, 3pm-6pm. Lots of stalls. Santa will be in his grotto. Parade leaves the centre at 5pm.
Sunday December 11 Community Carol Service, 6pm. Admission free. Tea/ coffee and mince pies available.
December 17 and 18 Dick Whittington panto, 2pm-7pm both days. £6 all tickets. To book, email **ncca@hotmail.co.uk** or ring 07845 678 003.

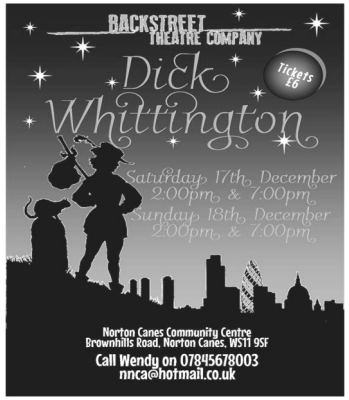
2017

Saturday February 11 Afternoon tea and bingo, 2pm.
Saturday April 8 Easter Fair and Easter Egg Hunt, 3pm-6pm.

From January 1 2017 the hall will be available as follows: Mondays and Tuesdays, 8am-3pm; Wednesdays and Fridays, 8am-1pm.



For more information on any of the above email:
ncca@hotmail.co.uk



Saturday December 17
&
Sunday December 18
Dick Whittington Pantomime
2pm and 7pm both days.
£6 all tickets.
To book email: ncca@hotmail.co.uk or call
07845 678 003

It's busy at Norton Canes Community Centre

Monday	watercolours, 10am-1pm	01543 275013
	sewing group, 2pm-4pm	
	Norton Canes Judo Club, 6pm-8pm	
Tuesday	Rainbows, 4pm-5pm	07958 127 489
	Brownies, 5pm-6.30pm	07958 127 489
	Poundshedders, 7pm-8pm	01543 278534
	indoor bowls, 7.30pm-9.30pm	01543 279185
Wednesday	Phyllis' cards, 11am-1pm	
	RVS, 1.30pm-3.30pm	01543 276959
	karate, 5pm-6.30pm	
	Zumba, 7pm-8pm	07894 947 334
	line dance, 8pm-11pm	07894 947 334
	parish meeting every	
	3rd Wednesday of the month	
Thursday	Jean's sewing group, 10am-4pm	
	Chris's cards, 10am-12 noon	07964 578 545
	Norton Canes Judo Club, 6pm-7pm	
	sugar craft, 7pm-9pm	
Friday	tea dance, 1.30pm-3.30pm	
	karate, 5pm-6.30pm	
	Jenny's Social, 7.30pm-10.30pm	01922 415232
Saturday	L' rhythmix, 10.45am-12.45pm	07821 774 456
1st & 3rd	Jenny and Terry's sequence and ballroom social	
	dance 8pm till late	01922 415232
2nd & 4th	Nev's line dance 7.30pm-midnight	07894 947 334

Take a Seat



Lily - chilling out on the park bench

Local residents are loving the new green benches which have been installed at the Cemma.

John and Barbara Stretton, from Chapel Street, Norton Canes, sent the following message: "Love the new benches on the Cemma. Many thanks to Ken Dixon the lengthsman and Kevin Batha the gardener for doing such a good job." The parish council would also like to thank Ken Emery for lending the equipment needed to complete the work.

Mr and Mrs Stretton enclosed this photo of their granddaughter, Lily MacGuire, trying one of the benches out.

"Lily lives in Heath Hayes – but loves 'our' park the best," they added.

The new bench replaces a wooden one that was destroyed.

Hope for Allotments Future

Due to financial cuts next year, Norton Canes Parish Council will not be able to take over management of an allotment site in the village.

The parish council has been working for some time with developers Taylor Wimpey and Cannock Chase Council regarding allotments at Chasewater Grange.

A parish council spokesperson said: "We received a lot of interest from residents about the allotments and collated a list of names.

"The parish council has now had to review the role of management of the site as it would not now be viable due to financial cuts next year - as there will be a loss of funding from the district council.

"The site is prepared for allotments. We don't know when these will become available but would hope the allotments will be allocated to Norton Canes residents."

The district council has confirmed the site will be managed under its Public Open Spaces Department.

The list of interested parties has now been forwarded to the district council.

Rainbows, Brownies – and now Guides

A brand new Girl Guide group will be starting in the village after Christmas.
It will be known as the 1st Valley District Guides and is for girls aged 10-14.
It will be run by the team which already operates the 2nd Norton Canes Rainbows and Brownies.
Meetings will be held at Norton Canes Community Centre on Mondays.
The girls can look forward to camping, pack holidays, community ventures and more.
The 2nd Norton Canes Rainbows meet on Tuesdays at the village Community Centre.
The sessions are for girls aged five to seven. They enjoy craft, trips, sleepovers and 'lots of fun'.
The 2nd Norton Canes Brownies also meet on Tuesdays at the Community Centre. The Brownie fun is for girls aged seven to 10. They enjoy 'lots of exciting adventures, sleepovers, pack holidays, badges and more'.
For more information ring Brown Owl Helen on 07958 127 489.
To find out more about the new Guide group, ring Sam on 07760 253 369.

.....

Upside Down Rainbow - see front page

And speaking of rainbows – did anyone notice an 'upside down rainbow' in the village this summer?
I swear I am not making this up – but a villager captured a picture of the phenomenon and swears it is not just an upside down picture! The picture was taken from the Yew Tree pub car park.
What do you think?

Email the editor on cannockcp@yahoo.co.uk

We Will Remember

Norton Canes Academy hosted a Remembrance event on November 11.
The Royal British Legion (RBL) and Norton Canes Parish Council chairman Councillor John Preece were among those who attended.
The children sang songs and read poems.
Brenda Rose, from the RBL presented headteacher Karen Amos with a certificate to say 'thank you' for all the fundraising which the school has done for the RBL over the years.
Brenda, who regularly visits local schools to talk about life during the war, presented badges to youngsters who read poems during the service.
She also presented badges to teachers who organised the event.
Brenda also paid tribute to her husband Trevor Rose and friend Syd Taylor - two RBL members who passed away recently.
Dave Smith presented the standard for the RBL.
"It was a wonderful service," Cllr Preece said.
Norton Canes Parish Council clerk Linda Florence added: "It is important for these events to take place involving the children of the village.





Pupils pictured with RBL Standard Bearer Dave Smith



From left: headteacher Karen Amos with Brenda Rose representing the RBL Norton Canes

With winter well and truly here, it is important you keep warm and keep well. For help and information, visit the NHS Choices website on www.nhs.uk/Livewell/winterhealth/Pages/KeepWarmKeepWell.aspx
Alternatively go to the practice website www.drbksingh.co.uk/ and click on the link
Flu Vaccinations at Norton Canes Practice **Protect yourself and your family from flu.**
Flu is an unpleasant but not life-threatening illness. However, it can be very serious for older people and those at risk of developing complications which include those with weakened immune systems, neurological disorders, liver, lung or renal disease, heart problems, diabetes and pregnant women. You are 11 times more likely to die from flu if you are in a clinical at-risk group. We urge everyone who is eligible to get the vaccine at your GP surgery.
If you haven't already had your vaccination or booked an appointment, it is important you make your appointment as soon as possible
Who is Eligible? Those aged 65 and over; pregnant women; and those aged six months-64 years on the 'at risk' register.
Children aged two-four (on August 31 2016) will have nasal spray at the surgery; children aged two-17 at risk will have nasal spray at the surgery; children in school years 1, 2 and 3 will have nasal spray in school.

Dr Chandra

Dr Jyothi Chandra has now joined the practice full time as a partner with Dr Singh. She has surgeries morning and evening every day except Thursday when she has morning surgery.

Annual Reviews

Those of you who receive annual review check-ups, please don't forget to book your annual review around your birthday with the nurses. It is vitally important for patients with long term conditions to attend their review so we can monitor their health to improve quality of care and safe prescribing of medicines.

Patient Access

Do you want the convenience of booking your appointments or ordering repeat prescriptions without having to phone or visit the surgery? With Patient Access you can now access your local GP services at home, work or on the move - wherever you can connect to the internet. Because Patient Access is a 24 hour online service you can do this in your own time. If you would like to be set up for this service, ask our receptionists.

Health Awareness sessions

Due to unforeseen circumstances our breast cancer awareness session, which was due to take place in October, had to be cancelled. We are hoping to rearrange early next year. Check out our Facebook page for further details.

Village Football Club Joins Forces with Jack's Appeal

Norton Canes Football Club has teamed up with a special youngster in a bid to raise money for a community mini bus.
Jack, from Norton Canes, was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukaemia when he was five years old.
He endured three years of gruelling chemotherapy treatment which has left him with permanent chemo induced neuropathy - constant nerve pain in his legs and hands. He also has dyspraxia which means he lacks special awareness.
Director of Football Ryan Horton said: "As a community club we have partnered with Jack's Fundraising to help raise money towards a minibus for Norton Canes. This would be used by the football club, community groups and local schools.
"We remain so inspired by Jack's story that we have partnered with him to help raise money for his project.
"Jack wants to give something to the community which helped him when he was very poorly. "He aims to fund a minibus for the whole club as a thank you from the community for the community."
Jack's dream was always to become a goalkeeper. And he was beginning to believe people who told him that was 'an impossible dream'.
But his life changed when he joined Norton Canes Disability Football Team.
"His life has changed so much," Ryan added. "He is confident, part of a team - and more importantly gets to make his dream a reality playing as a goalkeeper."

If you could host a fundraiser to help towards printing costs of this magazine please contact the parish council clerk
Linda on 01543 276812 or email her nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk



MAC

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Do you or a loved one suffer from either of the following conditions

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- Receive the latest in digital imaging to gain a greater understanding of your condition
- MAC clinical research will provide transport or pay for all travel expenses

To find out more information and whether Clinical Research could be an option for you then please contact our Cannock Research Clinic on **01543 465639** and speak to a member of the research team.

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MAC

MAC Clinical Research, Exchange House, Watling Street, Cannock, WS11 0BN
www.researchforyou.co.uk

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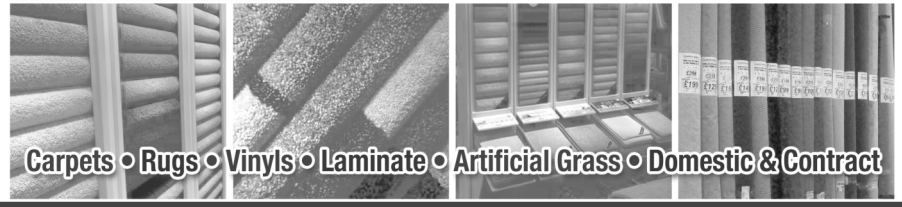
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CARPETS DIRECT 2U

Your Local Discount Carpet Store

Carpets Direct 2U is owned by **Robert** and **Mandy Freeman**, and their son **Richard**. The Freeman family have been serving customers throughout the Walsall and West Midlands area for four generations. Their years of retail experience have helped them to identify a niche in the market and come up with an idea that allows them to buy and sell carpets to the public at discounted prices.

Carpets Direct 2U is easily accessible to everyone in the area with retail premises in **Aldridge** and **Pelsall** and a huge warehouse in **Norton Canes** which is open to the public and has thousands of rolls in stock ready for customers to take away. Most recently, **Carpets Direct 2U** is proud to have opened a new retail store at **10 Cannock Road, Swan Island, Burntwood** where the family look forward to serving both existing and new customers in **Burntwood** and the surrounding areas. **Carpets Direct 2U** has established a reputation for providing customers with good service and quality floor coverings, priced to suit everyone's pocket.

Great Value, Great Quality

So how do they do it? Generally, when buying a carpet to fit your room, this price will include other costs such as storage and distribution by the stockist.

Carpets Direct 2U buy and sell in a different way. In simple terms they buy full rolls of carpet in bulk direct from the supplier, then cut them into standard room sizes and hold the stock themselves at their warehouse in **Norton Canes**. The savings they make are then passed **Direct 2U**. Discounts apply to all ranges. In addition to the vast range of stock they hold, they have hundreds of pattern and sample books to browse through in their showrooms or, you can take away samples to check and match against your individual colour scheme in the comfort of your own home.

Vinyls

The vinyl selection is endless at prices to suit everyone. In the store they stock remnants of all sizes: **2,3** and **4** metre widths with discounts of up to **75% off** normal cut length prices. Any time of the day, every day you can go to **Carpets Direct 2U** and buy a cut-price piece of vinyl, 2m x 2m for **£25**.
If you want a particular range or you don't see what you're looking for, you can order just what you want from a number of sample books and normally get it delivered the very next day.

Fitting Service

Carpets Direct 2U offer a fully comprehensive fitting service, provided by a team of self employed professional fitters with vast experience in the flooring industry. If you require underlay **Carpets Direct 2U** stock a variety and sell it at discounted roll prices, which is half the normal cut length price.

"Everyone's tastes are different whether it be 100% wool carpets or 100% polypropylene stain resistant carpets. The one thing every customer wants is quality carpets at the best possible price and that's what we give at Carpets Direct 2U." **adds Robert.**

Measuring Service

Carpets Direct 2U offer a free no obligation measuring service and are happy to provide written insurance quotations on request.

Rugs

RUGS DIRECT 2U

Whilst you can find a great selection of rugs in store, you can also shop online at **www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk** or order over the telephone on **08454 501221**.
Rugs Direct 2U offer quality rugs at the lowest prices. They have rugs to suit all tastes and budgets from retro designs to timeless classic styles from their traditional collections. They offer a wide variety of colours in materials ranging from luxurious wool to durable manmade fibres.

Customer Satisfaction

Carpets Direct 2U/Rugs Direct 2U are delighted to have been voted 'Most Loved Carpet & Rugs Business in the UK' (as voted for by local people) for the fifth year running. See what customers have to say about their service and products on the Best of Walsall website. Log onto the Best of Walsall website to read the numerous testimonials and see for yourself why **Carpets Direct 2U** and **Rugs Direct 2U** are so highly recommended as UK's most loved carpet and rugs business, an accolade they are proud of.

Sincere thanks to all customers, old and new, for taking time to forward your recommendations.

- Web: www.rugsdirect2u.co.uk
- Email: info@rugsdirect2u.co.uk



visit our website at **www.carpetsdirect2u.co.uk**

Look Back in Time

Norton Canes Historical Society Family History Group

Norton Canes Community Partnership Local History Group members meet on the second Tuesday of the month at Norton Canes Library. A speaker gives a talk from 7pm-9pm.

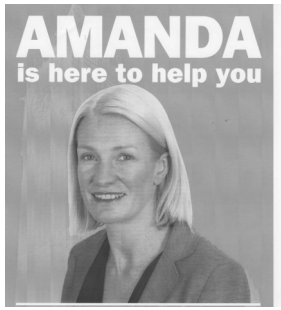
On the third Thursday of each month members meet at the library from 10am-12 noon for an informal coffee morning.

There will be no ordinary meetings in December but a Christmas Social Evening will be held on Tuesday December 13.
Local resident Len Sharratt will be giving a talk entitled 'Village Memories' on Tuesday January 10, 2017.
The next coffee morning date will be January 19.

For more information ring the group chairman Roger Knowles on 01543 279313 or secretary Maureen Garbett 01543 275416.

Christmas Message from Your MP

We are now at the end of my first full year as your MP and it has been a fantastic year.
I would like to thank everyone in Norton Canes for the wonderful reception I get every time I am here.
We have faced many issues together and the community spirit in Norton Canes never fails to amaze me. I do hope to see many of you while I am out and about at local schools, businesses and upcoming events this Christmas.
I wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Should you face any issue this Christmas and you need my help, as always, please get in touch on 01543 877142 or
email amanda.milling.mp@parliament.uk.



My warmest Christmas wishes to one and all.
Amanda Milling MP

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Welcome to our Family Friendly Club here in Norton Canes



This lovely furnished Lido Club is open seven nights a week and also Sunday from 12 noon. Saturdays we open from 3pm to show Live Premiere League Football on BT Sports in our Members' bar.
We offer a wide range of beers, cask ale and spirits at low club prices plus bar snacks and free WI-FI.
The main function room can comfortably seat 80/100 guests for private functions - or come along and enjoy live music on a monthly basis.
If you would like to hire our room for a private party, wedding or funeral wake contact bar manager Natalie who will be happy to help you with all your requirements. (Sorry no 18th/21st birthday parties).

We can offer you use of our indoor skittle alley or provide you with one of our Race Night evenings shown on our giant screen. Our fully equipped games room offers a full size match play snooker table, pool table and three dart boards.



Our four dart teams play on Monday, Thursday and Friday nights. New players, ladies and gents, are welcome to join one of our teams.
Our two crib teams play on Monday nights.
Tuesday is Chess night. All are welcome. Starts at 7.30pm and no experience is necessary.
Wednesday is Prize Bingo for all the family, starting at 7.30pm.
Thursday night is Karaoke Night where young and old are welcome to join our regular budding pop stars, who range from 18-80, to have a fun night.
New members are welcome to put in applications in January 2017 - or come as a guest of the club and see what we have to offer.

Norton Canes Women's Institute

The venue for our annual August annual trip this year was Nottingham.
There was plenty of free time for looking around the shops, followed by a boat trip on the River Trent which included a lovely roast dinner. The day was enjoyed by all parties.
September's monthly meeting was very well attended, with guest speaker Caz Bailey's talk entitled 'Handcuffs to Hot Glass' being the main focus for the evening. Caz spoke of her retirement from the police force and going back to college to study glass blowing. The talk was very humorous with lots of jokes and anecdotes of her experiences with other students on the course. The evening was rounded off with tea and lovely wholesome home-made cakes.
Also in September our rambling group joined up with the Staffordshire Federation for a modest three mile walk to Denstone, near Alton Village. For the keener walkers amongst us, the group also do lots of eight mile rambles throughout the year. Finally, there was a trip to the Black and White Villages in Herefordshire, an excellent example of timbered and half timbered houses dating back to medieval times.
It has been a very eventful two months made all the better with the lovely warm weather we experienced this year.
The speaker for our October meeting was John Brooking with the theme 'The Lighter Side of Theatre Costume Design'. John spoke of his time designing costumes for the theatre and when he worked at Alton Towers for nine years making costumes for the characters. He brought along a selection of costumes for us to see and try on.
As you can see, we have had lots of activities going on and we would like to invite any ladies who are interested to come along and see for yourself what we get up to. We meet on the first Wednesday of each month at Norton Canes Library. You are very welcome to come along.
Margaret Scothern



The service of Remembrance took place at St James' Church Sunday November 13.

Norton Canes Parish Council clerk Linda Florence said: "It was good to see so many brownies, rainbows, guides and scouts in church for the service this year."

NORTON CANES FLOWER CLUB

The club meets on the third Wednesday of the month at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, at 7.30pm.

We had a break in August but some members went to a flower warehouse and enjoyed spending money there and getting ideas.
In September Sandra Gunnell came to the club with her demonstration 'Magic Moments' - her own personal times to remember. She produced lovely arrangements with beautiful flowers and foliage.
The annual meeting was held on October 19. New club officers were elected for next year. We also enjoyed a delicious supper.



Simone Squire, our area trading officer from the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies, visited the club on October 26 with lots of lovely items for sale. On the same evening we had our fundraising auction which was a lot of fun.
We are looking forward to the Christmas demonstration by Nick Grounds and his 'Bah Humbug' at the Prince of Wales Centre in Cannock.

Future Meetings

December 7: Christmas party night with buffet supper and in - house entertainment plus the results of the photo competition.
The first meeting in 2017 will be on January 18 when we will have a speaker/demonstrator.
Norton Canes Flower Club members wish you all **a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.**
*Visitors and new members are welcome. For more information ring 01543 278370.

An Invitation for You



Norton Canes Community Library invites you to an afternoon tea on the last Thursday of the month.

There will be tea, coffee, cakes and scones (a small charge is payable).

The afternoon tea, at the Burntwood Road library, is held from 2pm-4pm.

What's Going On at the Lido?

The Royal British Legion Norton Canes branch meets on the second Tuesday of every other month. Anyone with military service or family in the military is welcome.
Details are available from Lido Working Men's Club secretary at the Lido club, 58 School Road, Norton Canes, WS11 9SQ.
The Over 60s club meets every Tuesday at the Lido from noon until 2.30pm for a friendly chat, bingo and lunch.
The message is: "Don't sit at home looking at the same four walls. Come and join us."
Monthly trips to new places are arranged. Transport is available. For more details contact Glenys Hardware or David Smith at the Lido or ring 01543 275714.

Chess Mates off to a Great Start



Norton Canes Chess Club played its first ever league chess match on October 18 - and won. The club won by 2.5 to 1.5 against Coleshill in Cannock Division 4.
Club spokesman Mike Hoare said: "The team played very well and are all looking forward to our next league game in December.
"We are always looking for new members of any ability and we are sure you can all enjoy this old war game even if you thought you never could before."
Members meet every Tuesday at The Lido, School Road, Norton Canes, at 7.30pm.
Younger members need to be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Would you like to advertise your business in this newsletter and reach every home in the village?
A half page ad' costs just £25, full page £50, double page spread £100.
For details ring the parish council clerk Linda on 01543 276812 (10am-2pm) or email her nortoncanesparishcouncil@live.co.uk

Our Village – the Good, the Bad and the Ugly

Well, now we know. We did extraordinarily well in the Best Kept Village (BKV) Competition – coming third in the Large Village category.
Judges toured the village twice: at the beginning and end of June. We can now reveal their comments, good and bad.

On the plus side:
Judges noted BKV information had been provided in this newsletter, on the parish council website and via contact with local groups.
They said there were good, well sited banners and BKV posters around the village. They praised the children's posters at the Co-op.
All notice boards were in 'very good' condition and notices were neatly displayed. There was a range of up to date local information covering parish council matters, local activities and events.
Trinity Methodist Church grounds were 'not good' on the first visit, but 'neat and tidy' on the second.
St James' Church grounds were described as 'well kept, neat and tidy'.
Judges were 'thrilled' to see an enormous stag at the rear of the churchyard in broad daylight.
The Community Centre grounds and car park were 'very well kept'.
The parish council office surrounds were 'neat and tidy' – as were the surrounds and car park of the village Medical Centre.
The surrounds and car park of the Yew Tree pub were 'very good indeed'. There were 'well maintained and attractive' planters.
The Victoria Club and the Lido surrounds were 'very tidy' with 'very attractive' hanging baskets at the Lido.
The phone box near the Co-op was 'clean and tidy inside and out'.
Village bus shelters were in 'pretty good condition' – the one in Norton Green Lane 'good in all respects'.
Seats and benches were in 'good' condition with tidy surrounds 'in most cases'.
The railway truck/Jubilee areas in the village were 'an outstanding feature', 'very well maintained'.
The new memorial stone and nearby open space was 'particularly impressive' – 'a real gem' for the village.
The railway truck/Jubilee area and the memorial stone area were 'really excellent and well kept'.
Jerome Road open space was 'well maintained with well mown grass, sensible conservation/summer meadow areas, no dog mess. The playing field was 'very well mown' with 'only one small piece of litter' in late June.

Trinity Methodist Church – Come and Pay a Visit

A variety of events take place at the Poplar Street church in Norton Canes. Take your pick from any of the following:
Saturday November 26: Christmas Tree Festival, 10am-4pm. At the festival trees are donated and decorated by various businesses and organisations. The trees will be left on display throughout the Christmas period.
Sunday December 4: Chasewater Section Carol Service, 6pm. The Carol Service involves all five churches in the Chasewater Section - all meeting at one church. It is open to anyone who would like to join in.
Sunday December 18: Trinity Church Carol Service, 11am. All welcome.
Christmas Day: Service, 10.30am. All welcome. A short service of Thanksgiving ending with tea, coffee and mince pies.
Wednesday December 28: 'Twixmas' Get Together with bring and share tea, 4pm. All welcome free of charge. There will be skittles, a quiz, sing-song and lots of chat followed by bring and share food - 'a nice get-together between the two holiday periods'.
*Each Saturday there is a coffee mornings with 'lots of chat', 10am-12 noon. These will remain open during the Christmas period.
Sunday services take place at 11am.

Trinity Methodist Church
Minister: Rev Christopher Parkes 682277
Senior Steward Ian Straughan 276695
Organist Mrs Pat Littler 276371



Girls Brigade Thursdays
Juniors: 6.00 pm to 7.30 pm
Seniors & Brigaders: 7.30 pm to 9.00 pm
Contact: Chris Straughan 276695

Accordion Group Saturdays 8.30 am
Contact: Peter Howard 01543 270627

Morning Coffee Saturdays 10.00am to 12.00

Periodical social events include Quiz Night, Barn Dance, Skittles Evenings.

Other activities: Wood Turning,
Trinity Toddlers, Keep Fit, Flower Club.

Be a Silver Sneaker

Would you like to take part in some gentle exercise?
Silver Sneakers meet at Trinity Methodist Church, Poplar Street, Norton Canes, on Thursdays at 12.30pm. And there is room for new members.
The sessions are suitable for anyone who would like to be fitter or stronger, but has poor mobility or has suffered a fall.
If you don't like exercise, lycra, sweat, tears or pain this could be for you.
Just turn up on the day wearing loose, comfortable clothing and suitable flat shoes.
The charge is £3 per session.

Local lady Margaret Aston, aged 74, is appealing for more Silver Sneakers to join.
This is Margaret's story:

"I have attended this class for nearly seven years after being struck down with polymialgia rheumatic – which is a very painful condition that attacks all muscles.
After I had got over that I had a hip replacement and shortly after that I had a fall in my home. I broke my shoulder, fractured my pelvis and fractured my spine. I was told by the hospital there was nothing they could do for me and they discharged me.
My class leader, Annette, gave me specific exercises to suit my condition. Without her help and this class I would have been crippled, but she gave me back my mobility.
Apart from this, the class gives you a chance to meet up each week with other members and share a chat and coffee at the end of each meeting.
Annette puts a fun aspect into all the exercises and it is a very enjoyable class. Without this class I would be lost because the benefit I have received has greatly improved my life.
It would be so sad to lose it."

Thank you for Your Support

A big 'thank you' is sent to all those who supported the Macmillan Coffee Morning at Trinity Methodist Church.

Thanks to donations received £551.50 was donated to Macmillan.

The money was raised by £426.50 being donated at the Poplar Street church plus a £125 donation from the workforce of Synatel Instrumentation.

The coffee morning took place on September 30.

Church spokesperson Gill Allen said: "Thank you all very much."

The majority of small open spaces and verges were 'well mown and litter free'.
Private gardens throughout the village were maintained 'to a high standard' with only a few exceptions.
Play area equipment, safety surfaces and seats at Jerome Road park (the Mount) were 'excellent'.
The Community Centre play area had 'a good range of equipment' all in 'good condition' with 'good safety surfaces and no litter'.
The village as a whole was 'commendably free from litter'.

The following were noted as aspects of the village which need further work:

BKV banners and posters could be positioned at the entrances to the village and around most of the village, rather than just in the centre.
Judges would like to see more children's posters around the village – at bus stops, in shop windows and in the Community Centre for example.
Information about recycling needs to be on display in the village.
Grass cutting at St James Church grounds varied in standard in some areas.
There was a small amount of litter in the Medical Centre grounds noted on the second visit.
At the Railway Tavern judges noted there were bottles, cans, litter and 'a large number' of cigarette ends – particularly in the car park.
The phone box at Norton Road/Burntwood Road was 'very untidy' with graffiti, litter and 'weedy surrounds'.
The glass in some bus shelters was 'grubby'. The rear of the bus shelter near the library and the surrounds of the Norton East Road bus shelter had 'lots of weeds and litter'.
Not all surrounds of seats and benches in the village were tidy.
There were weeds under the track and seat at the railway truck/Jubilee area.
There were 'significant amounts of litter' along the main footpath at Jerome Road open spaces area on the second visit.
There was some broken glass and litter at the Jerome Road park on both visits.
The village map provided to judges was not very clear.
Two lots of dog mess were spotted: outside the Co-op in early June and outside the library in late June.
Many more residents need to be made aware of BKV.
If we all play our part we can hope for continued improvement.

Distraction burglary Norton Canes

Your latest Smart Alert.

An elderly resident of Park Road, Norton Canes was visited on Thursday 3 November by a male stating he was doing work on trees and drains. He was allowed into the house and after he left it was discovered an amount of cash was missing. Unfortunately we have no description of the offender but anyone who can offer any information regarding the incident is asked to contact Staffordshire Police on 101 quoting incident number 545 of 5 November. Could you also please warn your neighbours, especially the elderly and vulnerable, not to let anyone into their homes without a prior appointment and even then not without checking and verifying their I.D.

Any suspicious callers should be reported to Staffordshire Police immediately.

Bogus 'Police Community Group'

We have received a report that someone purporting to be from the Police Community Group has been contacting Staffordshire residents and asking them to make a donation which will go towards helping victims of anti social behaviour.

Staffordshire Police would like to make it quite clear that it has no connections to any such group and nor would it ask anyone to make a donation towards any such cause.

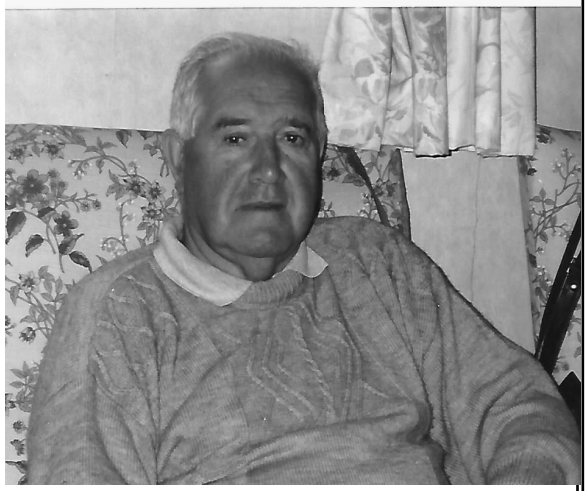
Anyone receiving similar calls should hang up immediately and report them to Staffordshire Police on 101.

The parish notice board outside the Co-op contains information which is updated regularly on parish matters. You can also find information on the parish council website

www.nortoncanesparishcouncil.co.uk

***This newsletter is published by**
NORTON CANES PARISH COUNCIL

Trevor Rose was born on September 17, 1928, in Hednesford Road, Norton Canes, and attended the local school.



At the age of 14 he started work at Norton Canes Dock (Yates Brothers). During that time he used to tow canal boats driving an old army jeep. In 1953 he started work in local mines where he remained until his retirement.

Trevor spent a lot of his spare time outdoors. He was a member of Cannock Archery Club and chairman of Cannock District Youth Hostels Association Group, organising hikes and cycling holidays.

For many years he tried to keep hedges, trees and graves tidy at St James Church and also helped his wife Brenda paint the church gates until ill health stopped him. He also helped to hang the bells at St James' Church - a job he really enjoyed.

Trevor used to regularly attend parish council meetings as a resident, getting involved in many heated 'chats'. He talked in local schools about his time down the mines and about the history of the village.
Trevor helped his wife Brenda with the girl guides. He was an active member of the Royal British Legion and helped with fundraising.

In the 1960s Trevor built a canvas wood canoe. With his son Mark, they could boast they were the only people to paddle a canoe under Norton Bridge. His wife still has the actual canoe.

Trevor's main hobbies were gardening, wine making and winter photography.

Trevor passed away in October after a long illness.

The Village Remembers Syd and Trevor



Since our last newsletter Norton Canes has lost two prominent figures in the village.
James 'Syd' Taylor, one of our oldest residents passed away on October 13, aged 96.
Syd was born in Norton Canes, the eldest of three brothers and lived in the village all his life.
He attended school in the village and was a choirboy at St James Church.
He also enjoyed being a member of the local cub and scout group.
Syd left school at the age of 14 and started work at Hardy Spicers in Witton, Birmingham.
At the outbreak of War he joined the TA in Bridgtown in April 1939 at an age of 19.
In October 1939 he was deployed to France with the BEF (British Expeditionary Force).
On his second deployment with 213 Field Company Royal Engineers he was taken Prisoner of War in June 1940 and spent five years in Prisoner of War camps in Poland. This was a difficult time for Syd and was part of what was known as the Long March which involved him having to walk 900 miles from Poland to Germany during a hard winter with very little food.
Syd was an active member of Norton Canes British Legion and life President of Cannock Branch of the Royal Engineers Association.
He enjoyed music, reading and attending the Darby and Joan Club in the village.
A parish council spokesperson said: "Syd would be described as a real character of the village and will be sadly missed by his family and the many friends he had in the village."

In Memory of a Special Lady



Popular local lady Angela Webb passed away on September 16.
She was well known by many people in the village as clinic co-ordinator for Norton Canes Medical Centre. Angela played a major role in the development and build of the new centre. She retired in 2014 for health reasons.
Earlier this year a dedication afternoon took place at the medical centre to recognise Angela's hard work and dedication. A framed acknowledgement is now in the entrance to the building.

Angela's daughter Hayley Green said: "Our family would like to thank everyone for their care, support and compassion.
"We were overwhelmed by the sheer number of people who attended her funeral on October 4.
"It was a real tribute to the amazing wife, mum, daughter, sister, auntie and friend she was to so many people.
"She touched the hearts of everyone she met and her positive attitude, determination, courage and beautiful smile will always be what we remember her for and will forever hold in our hearts.
"Our family would like to thank everyone for the beautiful flowers she received and for the generosity of everyone who attended."



A total of £3,500.57 was presented to St Giles Hospice in memory of Angela.
"This was an amazing sum of money for an amazing charity that cared for the most amazing lady," Hayley added.

Angela had been fighting secondary breast cancer for the last three years.

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Major	**£249**	A fully comprehensive and extended service, Everything the annual service offers with the addition of Cabin filter, Fuel Filter, Spark plugs, Gear oil & Brake fluid. Recommended annually for high mileage & every 2 years for average use vehicles.
Manufacturer Specific	**£**	Advised for new cars still within warranty, The use of Genuine parts and specific oil, , Price on application, Must have your mileage and your registration number to hand upon booking,

Having a fixed price menu means you know exactly what you will pay when it comes to collecting your car.!

We Promise to NEVER apply any hidden charges. Any surcharges will be discussed upon booking. Rest assured if we notice anything we think you will benefit from doing while your car is with us, we will always contact you and let you have the choice.

Something you don't understand? No problem let our experts explain exactly what's wrong, how it can be fixed and we can even show you old parts to prove what we have done.

Fancy Something Extra?

If your car has a large engine the oil capacity is usually large so we have to cover our costs for the addition oil and as such there is a surcharge of £26 likewise if your car or you request a specialist type of oil we need to charge you for that too but everything will be explained upon booking.


Diagnostic £35


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Dash Cams


MOT £35


Air Fresheners & Mini Valets


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Tyres


Wipers


Exhausts